

THEY TURNED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN!

Who Were These Guys?

Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

WHAT THEY *DIDN'T* HAVE THAT WE HAVE TODAY:

1. Church buildings (tax-exempt status):

Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47

2. Denominations (church organization and structure):

3. Paid Pastoral Staff (clergy, worship leaders, etc.):

4. Christian Subculture (Lifeway, New Life 91.9, etc.):

5. Freedom from Governmental Persecution:

Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them. And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword.

Acts 12:1-2

6. The New Testament:

7. Creeds, Confessions and Councils:

8. Modern, Cutting-edge Technology:

9. Wealth (disposable income):

10. Seminaries, Bible Colleges, Christian Schools, etc.:

11. The Enlightenment:

12. Years (or, centuries) of Generational Apathy:

13. Influence in Society:

14. Experience and Traditions:

15. The Luxury of Nominal Faith:

16. The Prosperity Message:

17. Other?

WHAT THEY *DID* HAVE THAT WE DON'T HAVE TODAY:

1. Reckless Abandon to Jesus:

2. Supreme Appreciation for the Gift of Salvation:

And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 4:18-19

3. Belief in "Every Member Ministry":

4. Commitment to the Word:

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42

5. Commitment to Fellowship:

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42

6. Commitment to Prayer:

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
Acts 2:42

9. God Exalting Examples to Follow:

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will (what) be able to teach others also.
2 Timothy 2:1-2

- A. Obedience
- B. Unity
- C. Openness to the Holy Spirit
- D. Dedication
- E. Enthusiasm
- F. Joy
- G. Endurance
- H. Faith
- I. Commitment to Holiness
- J. Spiritual Power
- K. Generosity and Hospitality
- L. Love
- M. Transformation
- N. Other?

They dwell in their own countries, but simply as sojourners. As citizens they share in all things with others, yet endure all things as if foreigners. They marry, as do all. They beget children, but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table but not a common bed. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey prescribed laws and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives. They are poor, yet make many rich. They are in lack of all things, yet abound in all. They are dishonored, and yet in their very dishonor are glorified. They are evil spoken of, yet they are justified. They are reviled, and bless. They are insulted and pay back the insult with honor. They do good, yet are punished as evil doers. When punished, they rejoice as if quickened into life. They are assailed by the Jews as foreigners, and are persecuted by the Greeks. Yet those who hate them are unable to assign any reason for their hatred.

Clement – (Epistle to Diognetus 5)